

## RETURN

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To an ADDRESS of the HOUSE OF COMMONS to His Excellency the Governor General of the 27th May, 1903, for a copy of the Report of the Committee of the Honourable the Privy Council, approved by the Governor General on the 19th May, 1903, covering the appointment of a Commission, composed of Sir William Van Horne, John Bertram and Harold Kennedy, to report on questions affecting the transportation of Canadian products to the markets of the world through and by Canadian ports, etc.

R. W. SCOTT,  
Secretary of State.

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EXTRACT from a Report of the Committee of the Honourable the Privy Council, approved by the Governor General on the 19th May, 1903.

On a Report dated April 6, 1903, from the Minister of Public Works, stating that he has had under consideration questions affecting the transportation of Canadian products to the markets of the world through and by Canadian ports with a view of placing the Canadian producer in a position to compete, and compete successfully, through all Canadian channels with the producers and exporters of other countries.

The minister submits that it may be assumed that grain and other products will naturally seek their markets by the cheapest routes, and therefore the method of attaining the object desired should be to make the Canadian routes cheaper and more convenient than competing routes.

That the development of North-western Canada has manifested the inability of existing Canadian transportation agencies to take care of Canadian products.

That our agricultural exports can only command the prices over seas to which their natural excellence entitles them when they cease to be confounded and confused with the inferior and often adulterated articles produced elsewhere ; and to preserve their separate identity they must go through Canadian channels.

The minister further states that the questions to be considered are complicated and involved, including among the objects to be sought the transportation of western products from place of production to the markets of the world.

This involves the consideration of their transportation :—

From place of production to Canadian seaports.

From place of production to the western ports of Lake Superior.

From the western ports of Lake Superior to Canadian seaports.

From Canadian seaports to Europe.

From place of production through Canadian ports on the Pacific.

As it affects the products of the eastern provinces of Canada it involves their movement :—

To the seaports.

From the seaports to Europe.



It is obvious that before any satisfactory conclusion can be reached upon these questions a thorough and comprehensive inquiry should be made regarding :—

The conditions of original shipment and the possibilities of improvement in the conditions surrounding such shipments.

The storage requirements of lake, river and ocean ports.

The harbour facilities of the inland lakes, rivers and Atlantic and Pacific ports.

The conditions with regard to the navigation of the St. Lawrence route, and, generally, any improvement, enlargements, or other matters affecting the more economical and satisfactory uses of any Canadian channel of transportation by land or water.

The minister further states that in making such investigation attention should not be confined to routes and facilities which are at present utilized, but, if necessary, new surveys should be made to determine whether any more economical and satisfactory channels of transportation by land or water can be opened up.

The forces operating against the attainment of all Canadian transport, namely :—

Competition by United States railways ;

Competition by United States vessels from Lake Superior ports ;

Diversion of Canadian products through eastern outlets to Boston, Portland and other United States ports, should be investigated, and the best and most economical methods used by our competitors should be carefully studied and reported upon.

The minister apprehends that in these circumstances it devolves upon the Dominion government to consider and adopt the best possible means of promoting such measures as may enable Canada to control the transportation of its own products, and it is thought that the most efficient method of conducting such an inquiry and obtaining the required information is by means of a commission of competent and experienced experts who may be appointed and authorized under the provisions of chapter 114 of the Revised Statutes of Canada.

The minister recommends, therefore, that a commission be appointed consisting of Sir William Van Horne, John Bertram and Harold Kennedy, of whom Sir William Van Horne shall be chairman and convener, for the purpose of making such inquiry, obtaining such evidence and information and making such reports and recommendations as in their opinion (and subject to any further instructions which may be given by the Governor General in Council) the exigencies of the reference may require.

The minister further recommends that such commission be authorized to employ such scientific and professional assistance as its members may decide ;

That the duration of the commission shall be during pleasure.

The minister also recommends that an appropriation be made out, of which the Minister of Public Works shall be authorized to pay expenses of all kinds incurred by the commission (including such remuneration to the commissioners as the Governor General in Council may decide), without reference to the provisions of the Civil Service Act or any Act regulating payment of officers or employees of the government.

The Committee of the Privy Council submit the above recommendations for approval.

JOHN J. MCGEE,

Clerk of the Privy Council.